



STATEWIDE CONTRACT

No. 14822

IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

For Use by Eligible Purchasers

By and Between

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE SERVICES**

and

ASCEND CONSULTING SERVICES

Dated April 1, 2024

STATEWIDE CONTRACT

No. 14822

IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Category A

IT Project Manager Services

Journey level consultant

Senior level consultant

Expert level consultant

This Washington Statewide Contract ("Contract") is made and entered into by and between the State of Washington acting by and through the Department of Enterprise Services, a Washington State governmental agency ("Enterprise Services") and Ascend Consulting Services, a Washington Limited Liability Company ("Contractor") and is dated and effective as of April 1, 2024.

RECITALS

- A. Pursuant to Legislative authorization, Enterprise Services, on behalf of the State of Washington, is authorized to develop, solicit, and establish enterprise procurement solutions, including statewide contracts for services to support Washington state agencies. See RCW 39.26.050(1). The Washington State Legislature also has authorized Enterprise Services to make these contracts available, pursuant to an agreement in which Enterprise Services ensures full cost recovery, to other local or federal government agencies or entities, public benefit nonprofit organizations, and any tribes located in the State of Washington. See RCW 39.26.050(1) & (2).
- B. Washington state agencies and other eligible purchasers have operational needs for certain IT Project Management Services. Accordingly, to provide a cost effective and efficient competitive procurement solution for Washington state agencies and other eligible purchasers to purchase specified IT Project Management Services, Enterprise Services, on behalf of the State of Washington, as part of a competitive governmental procurement, issued Competitive Solicitation No. 14822 dated February 7, 2023 to solicit bids from innovative, professional, qualified bidders who could provide various levels (subcategories) of specified IT Project Management Services, by category, for either IT Project Manager Services or IT Quality Assurance Services. The Competitive Solicitation was structured to meet purchaser needs and designed to result in multiple Contract awards, by specified subcategories for each category.
- C. Enterprise Services evaluated all responses to the Competitive Solicitation and identified Contractor as an apparent successful bidder for each of the above identified subcategories.
- D. Enterprise Services has determined that entering into this Contract will meet the identified needs and be in the best interest of the State of Washington.
- E. The purpose of this Contract is to enable eligible purchasers to purchase the Services as set forth herein.

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions set forth herein, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

- 1. TERM.** The term of this Statewide Contract is forty-eight (48) months, commencing April 1, 2024 and ending April 1, 2028; *Provided*, however, that Contractor, to retain the Contract, annually must achieve the performance-based metrics specified below. Enterprise Services, on annual basis, will evaluate Contractor's performance to ensure that Contractor meets the contractual performance requirements. If Contractor meets the performance requirements, the Contract automatically will renew for another year up and until the end of the contract term. If, however, Contractor does not satisfy the performance requirements, Enterprise Services will notify Contractor and identify steps to meet the identified performance requirements. If Contractor does not comply within six (6) months after notification, Enterprise Services reserves the right to remove Contractor from the Contract (Contractor may be prohibited from additional work during any corrective action period). In order to earn the performance-based annual renewal, Contractor must achieve the following performance-based metrics:

PERFORMANCE METRIC	PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL CONTRACT RENEWAL
Contractor Representations and Warranties:	Maintain 100% compliance with all representations and warranties as listed in Section 4 of this Contract.
Insurance Endorsements:	Timely provide to Enterprise Services at the designated address, without exception, annual insurance endorsements for the insurance coverages required by this Contract. <i>See Exhibit C – Insurance Requirements.</i>
Vendor Management Fee:	Timely remit to Enterprise Service, with no less than a 75% on time rate over the contract term, the applicable Vendor Management Fee (VMF). <i>See § 12.2 Vendor Management Fee.</i> <i>Note:</i> Contractor must pay the VMF within thirty (30) days of invoice from Enterprise Services. If Contractor is delinquent in timely paying the VMF for two (2) or more quarters within the first six (6) quarters of the Contract term, Contractor will not be eligible for a performance-based extension.

PERFORMANCE METRIC	PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL CONTRACT RENEWAL
Contract Sales Reports:	Timely provide to Enterprise Services, with no less than a 75% on time rate over the contract term, the required Contract quarterly sales reports. <i>See Section 12.1, Contractor Sales Reporting.</i> <i>Note:</i> Contractor must provide the quarterly sales reports to Enterprise Services within thirty (30) days of the quarter's end. If Contractor is delinquent in providing the quarterly sales reports for two (2) or more quarters within the first six (6) quarters of the Contract term, Contractor will not be eligible for a performance-based extension.
Contract Sales:	In order to be granted an annual contract renewal, Contractor must have sales reported in at least 1 of the first 3 quarters of the prior year. Enterprise Services will also accept evidence of customer leads, quotes and demonstrated proof of an ongoing effort to obtain contractual work.

2. ELIGIBLE PURCHASERS. This Contract may be utilized by any of the following types of entities (each an eligible "Purchaser"):

- 2.1. WASHINGTON STATE AGENCIES. All Washington state agencies, departments, offices, divisions, boards, and commissions.
- 2.2. WASHINGTON STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (COLLEGES). Any the following institutions of higher education in Washington:
 - State universities – i.e., University of Washington & Washington State University;
 - Regional universities – i.e., Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, & Western Washington University
 - Evergreen State College;
 - Community colleges; and
 - Technical colleges.
- 2.3. CONTRACT USAGE AGREEMENT PARTIES. Any of the following types of entities that have executed a Contract Usage Agreement with Enterprise Services:
 - Political subdivisions (e.g., counties, cities, school districts, public utility districts) in the State of Washington;
 - Federal governmental agencies or entities;
 - Public-benefit nonprofit corporations (i.e., § 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations that receive federal, state, or local funding); and
 - Federally-recognized Indian Tribes located in the State of Washington.

3. SCOPE – INCLUDED SERVICES AND PRICE.

- 3.1. **CONTRACT SCOPE.** Pursuant to this Contract, Contractor is authorized to provide only those IT Project Management Services set forth in *Exhibit A – Included IT Project Management Services* for the prices set forth in *Exhibit B – Prices for Services*. Contractor shall not represent to any Purchaser under this Contract that Contractor has contractual authority to sell or provide any Goods and/or Services beyond those set forth in *Exhibit A – Included IT Project Management Services*.
- (a) **Services.** For purposes of this Contract, “Services” means all services of any nature ordered by Purchaser pursuant to this Contract and as identified in the Purchase Order.
 - (b) **Specifications.** Where applicable, specifications for Services are detailed in this Contract and the Purchase Order.
- 3.2. **STATE’S ABILITY TO MODIFY SCOPE OF CONTRACT.** Subject to mutual agreement between the parties, Enterprise Services reserves the right to modify the Services included in this Contract; *Provided*, however, that any such modification shall be effective only upon thirty (30) calendar days advance written notice; and *Provided further*, that any such modification must be within the scope of the Competitive Solicitation for this Contract.
- 3.3. **PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.** The Contract prices are the maximum hourly rate the Contractor may charge. Maximum hourly pricing shall remain firm and fixed for one (1) year from the Contract’s effective date. Maximum hourly pricing will be automatically increased by Enterprise Services each year by 5% for the remainder of the contract term. Contractor may not make Contract extensions contingent on price adjustments.
- 3.4. **PRICE CEILING.** Although Contractor may offer lower prices to Purchasers, during the term of this Contract, Contractor guarantees to provide the Services at no greater than the prices set forth in *Exhibit B – Prices for Services*.
- 3.5. **CONTRACT INFORMATION.** Enterprise Services shall maintain and provide to eligible Purchasers information regarding this Contract, including scope, pricing, and lowest responsive, responsible bidder designation. In addition, Enterprise Services identifies awarded contractors who qualify as Washington Small Businesses, Certified Veteran-Owned Businesses, or that, pursuant to the Contract provide Services that meet specified state procurement priorities as set forth in the Competitive Solicitation.
- 4. CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.** Contractor makes each of the following representations and warranties as of the effective date of this Contract and at the time any order is placed pursuant to this Contract. If, at the time of any such order, Contractor cannot make such representations and warranties, Contractor shall not process any orders and shall, within three (3) business days notify Enterprise Services, in writing, of such breach.
- 4.1. **QUALIFIED TO DO BUSINESS.** Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor is (a) in good standing; (b) qualified to do business in the State of Washington; and (c) registered with the Washington State Department of Revenue and the Washington Secretary of State.
 - 4.2. **TAXES.** Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor is current, in full compliance, and has paid all applicable taxes owed to the State of Washington.
 - 4.3. **LICENSES; CERTIFICATIONS; AUTHORIZATIONS; & APPROVALS.** Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor possesses and shall keep current during the term of this Contract all required

licenses, certifications, permits, authorizations, and approvals necessary for Contractor's proper performance of this Contract.

- 4.4. **SUSPENSION & DEBARMENT.** Contractor represents and warrants as previously certified in Contractor's Bidder's Certification, that neither Contractor nor its principals or affiliates presently are nor have ever been debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in any governmental contract by any governmental department or agency within the United States.
- 4.5. **WAGE VIOLATIONS.** Contractor represents and warrants as previously certified in Contractor's Bidder's Certification, that during the term of this Contract and the three (3) year period immediately preceding the award of the Contract, Contractor has not been determined, by a final and binding citation and notice of assessment issued by the Washington Department of Labor and Industries or through a civil judgment entered by a court of limited or general jurisdiction, to be in willful violation of any provision of Washington state wage laws set forth in RCW 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52.
- 4.6. **CIVIL RIGHTS.** Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor complies with all applicable requirements regarding civil rights. Such requirements prohibit discrimination against individuals based on their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.
- 4.7. **EXECUTIVE ORDER 18-03 – WORKERS' RIGHTS.** Contractor represents and warrants, as previously certified in Contractor's Bidder's Certification, that Contractor does NOT require its employees, as a condition of employment, to sign or agree to mandatory individual arbitration clauses or class or collective action waivers. Contractor further represents and warrants that, during the term of this Contract, Contractor shall not, as a condition of employment, require its employees to sign or agree to mandatory individual arbitration clauses or class or collective action waivers.
- 4.8. **WASHINGTON SMALL BUSINESS.** Contractor represents and warrants, as previously certified in Contractor's Bidder's Certification, that Contractor qualifies as a Washington Small Business as defined and set forth in Contractor's Bidder's Certification.
- 4.9. **PUBLIC CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT FRAUD.** Contractor represents and warrants that, within the three (3) year period prior to this Contract, neither Contractor nor its principals or affiliates: (a) have been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offence in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, local, or tribal) contract or purchase order under a public contract; (b) have been in violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property; (c) have been indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, local, or tribal) with commission of any of the offense enumerated in subsection (b) of this provision; or (d) had one or more public contracts (federal, state, local, or tribal) terminated for cause or default.
- 4.10. **PROCUREMENT ETHICS & PROHIBITION ON GIFTS.** Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor complies fully with all applicable procurement ethics restrictions including, but not limited to, restrictions against Contractor providing gifts or anything of economic value, directly or indirectly, to Enterprise Services and Purchasers' employees.

- 4.11. WASHINGTON'S ELECTRONIC BUSINESS SOLUTION (WEBS). Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor is registered in Washington's Electronic Business Solution (WEBS), Washington's contract registration system and that, all of Contractor's information therein is current and accurate and that throughout the term of this Contract, Contractor shall maintain an accurate profile in WEBS.
- 4.12. WASHINGTON'S STATEWIDE PAYEE DESK. Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor is registered with Washington's Statewide Payee Desk, which registration is a condition to payment.
- 4.13. CONTRACT PROMOTION; ADVERTISING AND ENDORSEMENT. Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor shall use commercially reasonable efforts both to promote and market the use of this Contract with eligible Purchasers and to ensure that those entities that utilize this Contract are eligible Purchasers. Contractor understands and acknowledges that neither Enterprise Services nor Purchasers are endorsing Contractor's or Services or suggesting that such Services are the best or only solution to their needs. Accordingly, Contractor further represents and warrants that Contractor shall make no reference to Enterprise Services, any Purchaser, or the State of Washington in any promotional material without the prior written consent of Enterprise Services.
- 4.14. CONTINGENT FEES. Contractor represents and warrants that no person or selling agent has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this Contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established agents as defined in the Federal Acquisition Regulations.
- 4.15. FINANCIALLY SOLVENT. Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor has not commenced bankruptcy proceedings and that there are no judgment, liens, or encumbrances of any kind affecting title to any Services that are the subject of this Contract.
- 4.16. OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY. Contractor represents and warrants, as previously certified in Contractor's Bidder's Certification, that Contractor has the operational and financial capability to perform the Contract.
- 4.17. QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. Contractor represents and warrants, as previously certified in Contractor's Bidder's Certification, that Contractor has and shall maintain, personnel who meet the minimum performance requirements for the applicable awarded contract subcategory consultant level (journey, senior, and expert).
- 4.18. CONTRACT TRANSITION. Contractor represents and warrants that, in the event this Contract or a similar contract, is transitioned to another contractor (e.g., Contract expiration or termination), Contractor shall use commercially reasonable efforts to assist Enterprise Services (including the Purchasers hereunder) for a period of sixty (60) calendar days to effectuate a smooth transition to another contractor to minimize disruption of service and/or costs to the State of Washington and such Purchasers; *Provided*, however, that, if costs are incurred, Contractor shall be compensated for such costs consistent with the terms and conditions pertaining to this Contract for the sixty (60) day period immediately before such transition.

5. QUALITY; WARRANTY; REMEDIES.

- 5.1. STATEWIDE SERVICES WARRANTY. Contractor warrants that: (a) Services will be performed in a timely, efficient, and professional manner; (b) all Contractor personnel assigned to perform

Services will have the necessary skill and training; and (c) Services will be performed in a manner consistent with the standard of care in the industry ("Services Warranty"). The Services Warranty will survive for a period of twelve (12) months after the date when Services are completed ("Services Warranty Period").

- 5.2. SERVICES REMEDY. If Services do not comply with the Services Warranty or are in any manner found to be nonconforming during the Services Warranty Period, Contractor promptly shall remedy the non-conformance, or at Purchaser's election, Contractor shall re-perform or correct the nonconforming Services at no additional cost to Purchaser or refund the amounts paid for the Services.
- 5.3. IT WARRANTY. Contractor warrants, that all hardware, software, and firmware associated with Services ("IT Services") will not: (a) contain any viruses, malicious code, Trojan horse, worm, time bomb, self-help code, back door, or other software code or routine designed to: (i) damage, destroy, or alter any software or hardware; (ii) reveal, damage, destroy, or alter any data; (iii) disable any computer program automatically; or (iv) permit unauthorized access to any software or hardware; (b) contain any third party software (including software that may be considered free software or open source software) that (i) may require any software to be published, accessed, or otherwise made available without the consent of Purchaser, or (ii) may require distribution, copying, or modification of any software free of charge; and (c) infringe on any patent, copyright, trademark, or other proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party or misappropriate any trade secret of any third party ("IT Warranty"). The IT Warranty will expire twelve (12) months after the date IT Services are complete, as applicable.
- 5.4. IT REMEDY. If IT Services do not comply with the IT Warranty, or if any defect or non-conformance develops during the IT Warranty Period, Contractor, at Purchaser's election, promptly will: (a) re-perform or correct the non-conforming IT Services at no additional cost to Purchaser; or (b) refund the amounts paid for IT Services.
- 5.5. FAILURE TO REMEDY. If Contractor does not remedy a defect or nonconformity within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of written notice from Purchaser, or if an emergency exists rendering it impossible or impractical for Purchaser to have Contractor provide a remedy, Purchaser may, without prejudice to any other rights or remedies available to it, make or cause to be made required modifications, adjustments, or repairs, or may replace Services, or IT Services, in which case Contractor shall reimburse Purchaser for its actual costs or, at Purchaser's option, Purchaser will offset the costs incurred from amounts owing to Contractor.
6. **SAFETY; SECURITY.** Contractor's failure to comply with any of the requirements in this Section shall be cause for termination.
 - 6.1. ACCIDENT AND INJURY REPORTING. If Contractor, its agents, employees, or subcontractors are present at Purchaser's premises, Contractor promptly will report in writing all injuries, accidents, property damage, near-miss incidents, or any claims regarding damages or injury involving Contractor, its agents, employees, or subcontractors occurring at such premises. Contractor agrees to cooperate and assist in any Purchaser investigation of incidents.
 - 6.2. ON SITE REQUIREMENTS. While on Purchaser's premises, Contractor, its agents, employees, or subcontractors shall comply, in all respects, with Purchaser's physical, fire, access, safety, and other security requirements and not interfere with Purchaser's operations. Contractor

represents and warrants that Contractor, its agents, employees, or subcontractors who access Purchaser's premises will be adequately trained and at all times comply with Purchaser's requirements.

- 6.3. IT SECURITY POLICIES. Contractor, its agents, employees, or subcontractors shall comply with all Washington State IT security policies and standards which will be made available to Contractor upon request.

7. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION; DATA SECURITY; NETWORK ACCESS

- 7.1. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. For purposes of this Contract, "Confidential Information" includes, but is not limited to, information that is deemed confidential under federal or state law, personal information as defined in [RCW 42.56.590](#), as well as any information identified, in writing, by Purchaser as confidential or protected.
- 7.2. PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, Contractor's use of Confidential Information will be in compliance with all applicable state and federal law. At a minimum, Contractor shall maintain records documenting: (i) the Confidential Information received pertaining to this Contract; (ii) the purpose(s) for which the Confidential Information was received; (iii) who received and maintained the Confidential Information; and (iv) final disposition of the Confidential Information. Purchaser reserves the right to monitor, audit, and/or investigate Contractor's use of Confidential Information used, collected, or acquired by Supplier pursuant to this Contract.
- 7.3. CONTRACTOR OBLIGATION – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. Contractor shall: (i) hold Confidential Information in strictest confidence and not make use of Confidential Information for any purpose other than the performance of this Contract; (ii) release Confidential Information only to authorized employees or agents requiring such information for the purpose of performing this Contract and who have executed an appropriate nondisclosure agreement or data sharing agreement as approved by Purchaser; (iii) implement and maintain physical, electronic, and managerial safeguards to prevent unauthorized access to Confidential Information including, but not limited to, storing Confidential Information on secure servers with access to the data strictly controlled and limited to staff with appropriate training and clearance; and (iv) ensure that all Confidential Information is encrypted in transmission from and to Contractor, at rest in the data base or other data facility maintained or used by Contractor, and when transmitted to authorized recipients.
- 7.4. Contractor Obligation – Data Security. If the Contract involves Purchaser's Data and/or access to Purchaser's IT network, Contractor, at its expense, will comply with the data security requirements. Such policies are located on the OCIO website at: <https://ocio.wa.gov/policies>. These policies include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a) Security Policy 141
 - b) Accessibility Policy 188
- 7.5. CONTRACTOR OBLIGATION – EXPIRATION OR TERMINATION. Upon expiration or termination of this Purchase Order, Contractor, at Purchaser's direction, timely will: (i) Certify to Purchaser that all Confidential Information has been destroyed; or (ii) return all Confidential Information to Purchaser; or (iii) take whatever other actions Purchaser requires of Contractor to protect such Confidential Information.

- 7.6. NETWORK ACCESS. During its performance of this Contract, Contractor may be granted access to Purchaser's computer and telecommunication networks ("Networks"). As a condition of Network use, Contractor shall: (a) use the Networks in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations; (b) use software, protocols, and procedures as directed by Purchaser to access and use the Networks; (c) only access Network locations made available to Contractor by Purchaser; (d) not interfere with or disrupt other users of the Networks; (e) assure the transmissions over the Networks by Contractor (i) do not contain any libelous, defamatory, profane, offensive, obscene, pornographic, or unlawful material, and (ii) are not used to perform any illegal activities, including but not limited to, encouraging, selling, or soliciting illegal drugs, gambling, pornography, prostitution, robbery, spreading computer worms or viruses, hacking into computer systems, or trafficking credit card codes; and (f) upon termination or expiration of the Statewide Contract, relinquish all IP addresses or address blocks assigned to them on the Networks. Additionally, Contractor shall comply with Purchaser's IT policies.
- 7.7. CONFIDENTIALITY; SAFEGUARDING OF INFORMATION. Contractor shall not use or disclose any information concerning Purchaser, or information which may be classified as confidential, for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of this Contract, except with prior written consent of Purchaser, or as may be required by law.
- 7.8. LOCATION OF SERVICES. The Purchaser's data shall remain within the continental United States at all times and on computing and data storage devices residing therein. Contractor's services shall be subject to the United States legal jurisdiction.

8. SUBCONTRACTORS.

- 8.1. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in the event Contractor elects to utilize subcontractors to perform this Contract, Contractor shall: (a) incorporate Contractor's responsibilities under this Contract into its subcontracts; (b) be fully responsible for the performance of any such subcontractors (regardless of tier) and ensure that subcontractors comply with each and every Contractor obligation set forth in this Contract; (c) be the sole point of contact for Enterprise Services and any Purchasers regarding all contractual matters; (d) ensure that such subcontractors are registered in WEBS and are not on the federal Exclusions List on <http://sam.gov> or Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions List on <http://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/>; and (e) defend, indemnify, and hold Enterprise Services and Purchasers harmless in case of negligence, other tortious fault, or intentional misconduct by any such subcontractors (regardless of tier). Prior to utilizing any subcontractor to perform this Contract, Contractor shall provide written notice to Enterprise Services' contract administrator. Such notice shall confirm that the subcontractor is registered in WEBS, and is not on the federal Exclusions List or Sanctions List and provide the necessary information for Enterprise Services' contract administrator to include such subcontractor(s) in Washington's Purchasing Contract Management System (PCMS).
- 8.2. REPORTING. If Contractor is required to report to Purchaser and/or Enterprise Services, such report(s) will include subcontractor data, by subcontractor, for any data that Contractor is required to report as well as a consolidated 'rollup' report combining Contractor and subcontractor data.
- 8.3. SUBCONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS. Any Contractor representations or certifications set forth in this Contract shall apply to subcontractors (at any tier) and Contractor shall not utilize any subcontractors (at any tier) who cannot provide such

representations or certifications, excepting the certification to be registered with Washington's Statewide Payee Desk, unless Purchaser will pay such subcontractor directly.

9. USING THE CONTRACT – PURCHASES.

- 9.1. ORDERING REQUIREMENTS. Eligible Purchasers shall order Services from this Contract, consistent with the terms hereof and by using any ordering mechanism agreeable both to Contractor and Purchaser but including, at a minimum, a purchase order. When practicable, Contractor and Purchaser also shall use telephone orders, email orders, web-based orders, and similar procurement methods (collectively "Purchase Order"). All Purchase Orders must reference the Contract number. The terms of this Contract shall apply to any Purchase Order and, in the event of any conflict, the terms of this Contract shall prevail. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in no event shall any 'click-agreement,' software or web-based application terms and conditions, or any other agreement modify the terms and conditions of this Contract. The requirements outlined in Exhibit A-Included IT Project Management Services are minimum requirements. Additional requirements, including verifications (e.g., background checks) may be negotiated with Purchaser(s).
- 9.2. RECEIPT AND INSPECTION OF SERVICES. Services provided under this Contract are subject to Purchaser's reasonable review. Purchaser reserves the right to reject and refuse acceptance of Services that are not in accordance with this Contract and Purchaser's Purchase Order. If there are any apparent defects in the Services at the time of performance, Purchaser promptly will notify Contractor. At Purchaser's option, and without limiting any other rights, Purchaser may require Contractor to replace, at Contractor's expense, any or all defective Services or, at Purchaser's option, Purchaser may decline acceptance, and deduct the cost of rejected Services from final payment. Payment for any Services under such Purchase Order shall not be deemed acceptance.
- 9.3. CUSTOMER SERVICE. Customer Service must have hours of operation Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time, and can be reached at 1-206-618-6292, Info@ascendconsultingservices.com.
- 9.4. LICENSE FOR MATERIALS THAT INCORPORATE PRE-EXISTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. For any materials that are delivered under this Contract as part of the Services, but that incorporate pre-existing materials not produced under this Contract, Contractor grants to Purchaser a nonexclusive, royalty-free, irrevocable license (with rights to sublicense others) in such materials to translate, reproduce, distribute, prepare derivative works, publicly perform, and publicly display for Purchaser's governmental purposes. Contractor warrants and represents that Contractor has all rights and permissions, including intellectual property rights, moral rights, and rights of publicity, necessary to grant such a license to Purchaser.
- 9.5. TRAVEL COSTS. Travel costs, if any, must be approved by Purchaser and set forth in the Purchase Order; *Provided*, however, that any such costs must be in accordance with the Washington Office of Financial Management's State Administrative & Accounting Manual (SAAM), Chapter 10. Contractor must abide by the information regarding travel as submitted in Exhibit B.

10. INVOICING & PAYMENT.

10.1. **CONTRACTOR INVOICE.** Contractor shall submit properly itemized invoices to Purchaser's designated invoicing contact for Services delivered under this Contract. Such invoices shall itemize the following:

- (a) Contract No. 14822;
- (b) Contractor name, address, telephone number, and email address for billing issues (i.e., Contractor Customer Service Representative);
- (c) Contractor's Federal Tax Identification Number;
- (d) Date(s) of delivery;
- (e) Applicable Services;
- (f) Invoice amount; and
- (g) Payment terms, including any available prompt payment discounts.

Contractor's invoices for payment shall reflect accurate Contract prices. Invoices will not be processed for payment until receipt of a complete invoice as specified herein.

10.2. **PAYMENT.** Payment is the sole responsibility of, and will be made by, the Purchaser. Purchaser's obligation to pay invoices is subject to receipt of a timely and accurate invoice and conforming Services. Unless Contractor has provided a prompt payment discount set forth in *Exhibit B – Prices*, Purchaser's payment is due within thirty (30) calendar days of invoice. Purchaser retains the right of setoff for any amount due or owing to Purchaser. Purchaser may make payments electronically (e.g., ACH payments). Contractor shall provide information necessary to facilitate electronic payments. If Purchaser fails to make timely payment(s), Contractor may invoice Purchaser in the amount of one percent (1%) per month on the amount overdue or a minimum of \$1. Payment will not be considered late if a check or warrant is mailed within the time specified.

10.3. **OVERPAYMENTS.** Contractor promptly shall refund to Purchaser the full amount of any erroneous payment or overpayment. Such refunds shall occur within thirty (30) calendar days of written notice to Contractor; *Provided*, however, that Purchaser shall have the right to elect to have either direct payments or written credit memos issued. If Contractor fails to make timely refunds of overpayment(s) (either directly or by credit memo), Contractor shall pay Purchaser interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month on the amount overdue thirty (30) calendar days after notice to Contractor.

10.4. **ADVANCE PAYMENT PROHIBITED.** Except as authorized by law, Contractor shall not request or receive advance payment for any Services furnished by Contractor pursuant to this Contract.

10.5. **NO ADDITIONAL CHARGES.** Unless otherwise specified herein, Contractor shall not include or impose any additional charges including, but not limited to, charges for shipping, handling, insurance, or payment processing.

10.6. **TAXES/FEES.** Contractor promptly shall pay all applicable taxes on its operations and activities pertaining to this Contract. Failure to do so shall constitute breach of this Contract. Unless otherwise agreed, Purchaser shall pay applicable sales tax imposed by the State of Washington on purchased Services. Contractor's invoices shall separately state (a) taxable and non-taxable charges and (b) sales/use tax due by jurisdiction. In regard to federal excise taxes, Contractor shall include federal excise taxes only if, after thirty (30) calendar days

written notice to Purchaser, Purchase has not provided Contractor with a valid exemption certificate from such federal excise taxes.

11. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT.

- 11.1. **CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION & NOTICES.** Except for legal notices, the parties hereby designate the following contract administrators as the respective single points of contact for purposes of this Contract. Enterprise Services' contract administrator shall provide Contract oversight. Contractor's contract administrator shall be Contractor's principal contact for business activities under this Contract. The parties may change contract administrators by written notice as set forth below.

Any notices required or desired shall be in writing and sent by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or sent via email, and shall be sent to the respective addressee at the respective address or email address set forth below or to such other address or email address as the parties may specify in writing:

Enterprise Services

Attn: Julie Aalberg
Washington Dept. of Enterprise Services
PO Box 41411
Olympia, WA 98504-1411
Tel: (360) 490-1608
Email: desitps@des.wa.gov

Contractor

Attn: DeWayne Moats
Ascend Consulting Services
3522 173rd St E
Tacoma, WA 98446
Tel: (206) 618-6292
Email: Dewayne@ascendconsulting

Notices shall be deemed effective upon the earlier of receipt, if mailed, or, if emailed, upon transmission to the designated email address of said addressee.

- 11.2. **CONTRACTOR CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE.** Contractor shall designate a customer service representative (and inform Enterprise Services of the same) who shall be responsible for addressing Purchaser issues pertaining to this Contract.
- 11.3. **LEGAL NOTICES.** Any legal notices required or desired shall be in writing and delivered by U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or sent via email, and shall be sent to the respective addressee at the respective address or email address set forth below or to such other address or email address as the parties may specify in writing:

Enterprise Services

Attn: Legal Services Manager
Washington Dept. of Enterprise Services
PO Box 41411
Olympia, WA 98504-1411
Email: greg.tolbert@des.wa.gov

Contractor

Attn: DeWayne Moats
Ascend Consulting Services
3522 173rd St E
Tacoma WA 98446
Email: Dewayne@ascendconsultingse

Notices shall be deemed effective upon the earlier of receipt when delivered, or, if mailed, upon return receipt, or, if emailed, upon transmission to the designated email address of said addressee.

- 11.4. **DIVERSE BUSINESS INCLUSION.** Enterprise Services is committed to providing the maximum practicable opportunity for small and diverse businesses to participate in state contracting opportunities. Diverse businesses are defined in WEBS as follows: small business,

microbusiness, mini-business, Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) certified minority owned (MBE) or women owned business (WBE), or Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) certificated veteran-owned business. Upon request, Contractor shall report to Enterprise Services it's spend with certified diverse businesses. Such reports shall include the period covered and sales amount by Purchasing Entity to such businesses.

12. CONTRACTOR SALES REPORTING; VENDOR MANAGEMENT FEE; & CONTRACTOR REPORTS.

12.1. **CONTRACT SALES REPORTING.** Contractor shall report total Contract sales quarterly to Enterprise Services, as set forth below.

- (a) **Contract Sales Reporting System.** Contractor shall report quarterly Contract sales in Enterprise Services' Contract Sales Reporting System. Enterprise Services will provide Contractor with a login password and a vendor number. The password and vendor number will be provided to the Sales Reporting Representative(s) listed on Contractor's Bidder Profile.
- (b) **Data.** Each sales report must identify every authorized Purchaser by name as it is known to Enterprise Services and its total combined sales amount invoiced during the reporting period (i.e., sales of an entire agency or political subdivision, not its individual subsections). The "Miscellaneous" option may be used only with prior approval by Enterprise Services. Upon request, Contractor shall provide contact information for all authorized Purchasers specified herein during the term of the Contract. If there are no Contract sales during the reporting period, Contractor must report zero sales.
- (c) **Due dates for Contract Sales Reporting.** Quarterly Contract Sales Reports must be submitted electronically by the following deadlines for all Contract sales invoiced during the applicable calendar quarter:

QUARTER	FOR SALES MADE IN CALENDAR QUARTER ENDING	CONTRACT SALES REPORT	
		DUE BY	PAST DUE
1	January 1 – March 31	April 30	May 1
2	April 1 – June 30	July 31	August 1
3	July 1 – September 30	October 31	November 1
4	October 1 – December 31	January 31	February 1

12.2. **VENDOR MANAGEMENT FEE.** Contractor shall pay to Enterprise Services a vendor management fee ("VMF") of 1.25 percent on the purchase price for all Contract sales (the purchase price is the total invoice price less applicable sales tax).

- (a) The sum owed by Contractor to Enterprise Services as a result of the VMF is calculated as follows:

Amount owed to Enterprise Services = Total Contract sales
invoiced (not including sales tax) x .0125.

- (b) The VMF must be rolled into Contractor's current pricing. The VMF must not be shown as a separate line item on any invoice unless specifically requested and approved by Enterprise Services.
- (c) Enterprise Services will invoice Contractor quarterly based on Contract sales reported by Contractor. Contractor is not to remit payment until Contractor receives an invoice from Enterprise Services. Contractor's VMF payment to Enterprise Services must reference this Contract number, the year and quarter for which the VMF is being remitted, and Contractor's name as set forth in this Contract, if not already included on the face of the check.
- (d) Contractor's failure to report accurate total net Contract sales, to submit a timely Contract sales report, or to remit timely payment of the VMF to Enterprise Services, may be cause for Enterprise Services to suspend Contractor or terminate this Contract or exercise remedies provided by law. Without limiting any other available remedies, the parties agree that Contractor's failure to remit to Enterprise Services timely payment of the VMF shall obligate Contractor to pay to Enterprise Services, to offset the administrative and transaction costs incurred by the State to identify, process, and collect such sums, the sum of \$200.00 or twenty-five percent (25%) of the outstanding amount, whichever is greater, or the maximum allowed by law, if less.
- (e) Enterprise Services reserves the right, upon thirty (30) calendar days advance written notice, to increase, reduce, or eliminate the VMF for subsequent purchases, and reserves the right to renegotiate Contract pricing with Contractor when any subsequent adjustment of the VMF might justify a change in pricing.

13. RECORDS RETENTION & AUDITS.

- 13.1. RECORDS RETENTION. Contractor shall maintain books, records, documents, and other evidence pertaining to this Contract and orders placed by Purchasers under it to the extent and in such detail as shall adequately reflect contract performance and administration of purchases, payments, taxes, and fees. Contractor shall retain such records for a period of six (6) years following expiration or termination of this Contract or final payment for any order placed by a Purchaser against this Contract, whichever is later; *Provided*, however, that if any litigation, claim, or audit is commenced prior to the expiration of this period, such period shall extend until all such litigation, claims, or audits have been resolved.
- 13.2. AUDIT. Enterprise Services reserves the right to audit, or have a designated third party audit, applicable records to ensure that Contractor properly has invoiced Purchasers and that Contractor has paid all applicable vendor management fees to Enterprise Services. Accordingly, Contractor shall permit Enterprise Services, any Purchaser, and any other duly authorized agent of a governmental agency, to audit, inspect, examine, copy and/or transcribe Contractor's books, documents, papers and records directly pertinent to this Contract or Purchase Orders placed by a Purchaser under this Contract for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. This right shall survive for a period of six (6) years following expiration or termination of this Contract or final payment for any order placed by a Purchaser against this Contract, whichever is later; *Provided*, however, that

if any litigation, claim, or audit is commenced prior to the expiration of this period, such period shall extend until all such litigation, claims, or audits have been resolved.

- 13.3. OVERPAYMENT OF PURCHASES OR UNDERPAYMENT OF FEES. Without limiting any other remedy available to any Purchaser, Contractor shall (a) reimburse Purchasers for any overpayments inconsistent with the terms of this Contract or Purchase Orders placed thereunder, at a rate of 125% of any such overpayments, found as a result of the examination of Contractor's records; and (b) reimburse Enterprise Services for any underpayment of vendor management fees, at a rate of 125% of such fees found as a result of the examination of Contractor's records (e.g., if Contractor underpays the Vendor Management Fee by \$500, Contractor would be required to pay to Enterprise Services $\$500 \times 1.25 = \625); *Provided*, however, that, in the event Contractor timely discovers and corrects any Purchaser overpayment or Contractor underpayment of vendor management fees and does so prior to the initiation of any audit, Contractor shall be entitled to reimburse Purchaser or pay to Enterprise Services the actual amount of such Purchaser overpayment or such underpayment of vendor management fees.

14. INSURANCE.

- 14.1. REQUIRED INSURANCE. Contractor, at its expense, shall maintain in full force and effect the insurance coverages set forth in *Exhibit C – Insurance Requirements*. All costs for insurance, including any payments of deductible amounts, shall be considered incidental to and included in the prices for Services and no additional payment shall be made to Contractor.
- 14.2. WORKERS COMPENSATION. Contractor shall comply with applicable workers compensation statutes and regulations (e.g., RCW Title 51, Industrial Insurance). If Contractor fails to provide industrial insurance coverage or fails to pay premiums or penalties on behalf of its employees as may be required by law, Enterprise Services may terminate this Contract. This provision does not waive any of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) rights to collect from Contractor. If Contractor performs Services on Purchaser's behalf in the State of Washington, and only to the extent of claims against Contractor by Purchaser under the Indemnity obligations in this Contract, Contractor expressly waives any immunity it may be granted under the Washington State Industrial Insurance Act, Title 51 RCW. Contractor's indemnification obligation will not be limited in any way by any limitation on the amount or type of damages, compensation, or benefits payable to or for any third party under workers' compensation acts, disability benefit acts, or other employee benefit acts. The parties expressly acknowledge and certify that the waiver of immunity under Title 51 RCW was mutually negotiated and agreed upon.

15. CLAIMS.

- 15.1. ASSUMPTION OF RISKS; CLAIMS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. Contractor assumes sole responsibility and all risks of personal injury or property damage to itself and its employees and agents in connection with its operations under this Contract. Enterprise Services has made no representations regarding any factor affecting Contractor's risks. Contractor shall pay for all damage to any Purchaser's property resulting directly or indirectly from Contractor's acts or omissions under this Contract.
- 15.2. THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS; GENERAL INDEMNITY. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold Enterprise Services and any Purchaser and their employees and agents harmless from and against all claims, demands, judgments, assessments, damages,

penalties, fines, costs, liabilities, or losses including, without limitation, sums paid in settlement of claims, attorneys' fees, consultant fees, and expert fees (collectively "Claims") to the extent arising out of Contractor's or its successors', agents', or subcontractors' negligence, other tortious fault, or intentional misconduct under this Contract. The parties agree that if there are any limitations of Contractor's liability, including a limitation of liability clause for anyone for whom the Contractor is responsible, such limitations of liability shall not apply to injuries to persons, including death, or to damages to property. Contractor shall take all steps needed to keep Purchaser's property free of liens arising from Contractor's activities, and promptly obtain or bond the release of any such liens that may be filed.

- 15.3. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEMNITY.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold Enterprise Services and any Purchaser and their employees and agents harmless from against any and all Claims resulting from allegations of infringement of any patents, copyrights, trade secret, or similar intellectual property rights covering the Services provided, or the use of the Services under this Contract. If Purchaser's use of Services provided by Contractor is enjoined based on an intellectual property infringement Claim, Contractor shall, at its own expense, either procure for Purchaser the right to continue using the Services or, after consulting with Purchaser and obtaining Purchaser's consent, replace or modify the Services with substantially similar and functionally equivalent non-infringing Services.

- 16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties shall cooperate to resolve any dispute pertaining to this Contract efficiently, as timely as practicable, and at the lowest possible level with authority to resolve such dispute. If, however, a dispute persists and cannot be resolved, it may be escalated within each organization. In such situation, upon notice by either party, each party, within five (5) business days shall reduce its description of the dispute to writing and deliver it to the other party. The receiving party then shall have three (3) business days to review and respond in writing. In the event that the parties cannot then agree on a resolution of the dispute, the parties shall schedule a conference between the respective senior managers of each organization to attempt to resolve the dispute. In the event the parties cannot agree, either party may resort to court to resolve the dispute.

17. TERMINATION; EXPIRATION; SUSPENSION; & REMEDIES.

- 17.1. **TERMINATION.** This Contract may be terminated: (a) upon the mutual written agreement of the parties; (b) by the non-breaching party where the breach is not cured within thirty (30) calendar days after written notice of breach is delivered to the breaching party, unless a different time for cure is otherwise stated in this Contract; and (c) as otherwise expressly provided for in this Contract. This Contract shall terminate automatically and without further action if a party becomes insolvent or is placed in receivership, reorganization, liquidation, or bankruptcy. In addition to any other available remedies, the non-breaching party may terminate this Contract as provided in subsection (b) above without further liability by written notice to the breaching party. A termination for breach will not affect rights or obligations accrued or owed before the effective date of the termination notice.
- 17.2. **TERMINATION FOR NONAPPROPRIATION OR REDUCTION OF FUNDS OR CHANGES IN LAW.** Enterprise Services may suspend or terminate this Contract and Purchasers may suspend or terminate applicable Purchase Orders, in whole or in part, at the sole discretion of Enterprise Services or, as applicable, Purchaser, if Enterprise Services or, as applicable, Purchaser reasonably determines that: (a) a change in Federal or State legislation or applicable laws materially affects the ability of either party to perform under the terms of this Contract or applicable

Purchase Order; or (b) that a change in available funds affects Purchaser's ability to pay under the applicable Purchase Order. A change of available funds as used in this section includes but is not limited to a change in Federal or State funding, whether as a result of a legislative act or by order of the President or the Governor. If a written notice is delivered under this provision, Purchaser will reimburse Contractor for Services properly performed until the effective date of said notice. Except as stated in this provision, in the event of termination for nonappropriation or reduction of funds or changes in law, Purchaser will have no obligation or liability to Contractor.

- 17.3. **TERMINATION FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE.** Enterprise Services, for public convenience, may terminate this Contract; *Provided*, however, that such termination for public convenience must, in Enterprise Services' judgment, be in the best interest of the State of Washington; and *Provided further*, that such termination for public convenience shall only be effective upon sixty (60) calendar days prior written notice; and *Provided further*, that such termination for public convenience shall not relieve any Purchaser from payment for Services already ordered as of the effective date of such notice. Except as stated in this provision, in the event of such termination for public convenience, neither Enterprise Services nor any Purchaser shall have any obligation or liability to Contractor.
- 17.4. **PURCHASER OBLIGATIONS – EXPIRATION.** Upon expiration of this Contract, Purchaser shall accept and take delivery of all outstanding and not yet fulfilled Purchase Orders and pay Contractor the price as set out in the Contract. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in no event shall a Purchaser's Purchase Order pursuant to this Contract that is executed prior to expiration of this Contract allow for Contractor to provide Services more than twelve (12) months beyond the expiration date of the Contract.
- 17.5. **CONTRACTOR OBLIGATIONS – EXPIRATION OR TERMINATION.** Upon expiration or termination of this Contract, Contractor shall: (a) continue to fulfill its warranty obligations with respect to any Services sold hereunder and all provisions of the Contract that, by their nature, would continue beyond the expiration, termination, or cancellation of the Contract shall so continue and survive; and (b) promptly return to Purchaser all keys, badges, and other materials supplied by Purchaser for the performance of any Purchase Order entered into pursuant to this Contract.
- 17.6. **DEFAULT.** Any of the following events shall constitute cause for Enterprise Services to declare Contractor in default of this Contract:
- (a) Contractor fails to perform or comply with any of the terms or conditions of this Contract;
 - (b) Contractor fails to timely report contract sales;
 - (c) Contractor fails to timely pay the vendor management fees when due; or
 - (d) Contractor breaches any representation or warranty provided herein.
- 17.7. **SUSPENSION & TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT.** Enterprise Services may suspend Contractor's operations under this Contract immediately by written cure notice of any default. Suspension shall continue until the default is remedied to Enterprise Services' reasonable satisfaction; *Provided*, however, that, if after thirty (30) calendar days from such a suspension notice, Contractor remains in default, Enterprise Services may terminate Contractor's rights under this Contract. All of Contractor's obligations to Enterprise Services and Purchasers survive

termination of Contractor's rights under this Contract, until such obligations have been fulfilled.

17.8. REMEDIES FOR DEFAULT.

- (a) Enterprise Services' rights to suspend and terminate Contractor's rights under this Contract are in addition to all other available remedies.
- (b) In the event of termination for default, Enterprise Services may exercise any remedy provided by law including, without limitation, the right to procure for all Purchasers replacement Services. In such event, Contractor shall be liable to Enterprise Services for damages as authorized by law including, but not limited to, any price difference between the Contract price and the replacement or cover price as well as any administrative and/or transaction costs directly related to such replacement procurement – e.g., the cost of the competitive procurement.

17.9. LIMITATION ON DAMAGES. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the parties agree that in no event shall any party or Purchaser be liable to the other for exemplary or punitive damages or for lost profits; *Provided*, however, that nothing contained in this Section will in any way exclude or limit: (a) a party's liability for all damages arising out of that party's intentional acts or omissions; (b) the operation of any Services warranty provided in this Contract; or (c) damages subject to the Intellectual Property Indemnity section of this Contract. Any limitation of either party's obligations under this Contract, by delivery slips or other documentation is void.

17.10. SUSPENSION/TERMINATION PROCEDURE. Regardless of basis, in the event of suspension or termination (in full or in part), the parties shall cooperate to ensure an orderly and efficient suspension or termination. Accordingly, Contractor shall deliver to Purchasers all Services that are complete (or with approval from Enterprise Services, substantially complete) and Purchasers shall inspect, accept, and pay for the same in accordance with this Contract and the applicable Purchase Order. Unless directed by Enterprise Services to the contrary, Contractor shall not process any orders after notice of suspension or termination inconsistent therewith.

17.11. PURCHASER PURCHASE ORDERS. Purchaser Orders may be terminated: (a) upon the mutual written agreement of the parties; (b) by the non-breaching party where the breach is not cured within thirty (30) calendar days after written notice of breach is delivered to the breaching party, unless a different time for cure is otherwise stated in the applicable Purchase Order; and (c) as otherwise expressly provided for in the applicable Purchase Order. Purchase Orders shall terminate automatically and without further action if a party becomes insolvent or is placed in receivership, reorganization, liquidation, or bankruptcy. In addition to any other available remedies, the non-breaching party may terminate the Purchase Order as provided in subsection (b) above without further liability by written notice to the breaching party. A termination for breach will not affect rights or obligations accrued or owed before the effective date of the termination notice.

18. PUBLIC INFORMATION & PUBLIC RECORDS DISCLOSURE REQUESTS.

18.1. WASHINGTON'S PUBLIC RECORDS ACT. Unless statutorily exempt from public disclosure, this Contract and all related records are subject to public disclosure as required by Washington's Public Records Act, RCW 42.56.

- 18.2. **CONTRACTOR OBLIGATION.** Contractor shall identify and mark the precise portion(s) of the relevant page(s) of any records provided to Enterprise Services that Contractor believes are statutorily exempt from disclosure and identify the precise statutory basis for exemption from disclosure. In addition, if, in Contractor's judgment, certain portions of such records are not statutorily exempt from disclosure but are sensitive because particular portions of Contractor's records (NOT including pricing) include highly confidential, proprietary, or trade secret information (or the equivalent) that Contractor protects through the regular use of confidentiality or similar agreements and routine enforcements through court enforcement actions, Contractor shall identify and mark the precise portion(s) of the relevant page(s) of any records that include such sensitive information.
- 18.3. **ENTERPRISE SERVICES' OBLIGATION.** In the event that Enterprise Services receives a public records disclosure request pertaining to records that Contractor has submitted and marked either as (a) statutorily exempt from disclosure; or (b) sensitive, Enterprise Services, prior to disclosure, will do the following: Enterprise Services' Public Records Officer will review any records marked by Contractor as statutorily exempt from disclosure. In those situations, where the designation comports with the stated statutory exemption from disclosure, Enterprise Services will redact or withhold the record(s) as appropriate. For records marked 'sensitive' or for records where Enterprise Services determines that no statutory exemption to disclosure applies or is unable to determine whether the stated statutory exemption to disclosure properly applies, Enterprise Services will notify Contractor, at the address provided in the Contract, of the public records disclosure request and identify the date that Enterprise Services intends to release the record(s) (including records marked 'sensitive' or exempt from disclosure) to the requester unless Contractor, at Contractor's sole expense, timely obtains a court order enjoining Enterprise Services from such disclosure. In the event Contractor fails to timely file a motion for a court order enjoining such disclosure, Enterprise Services will release the requested record(s) on the date specified. Contractor's failure properly to identify exempted or sensitive information or timely respond after notice of request for public disclosure has been given shall be deemed a waiver by Contractor of any claim that such records are exempt or protected from public disclosure.

19. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

- 19.1. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.** Time is of the essence for each and every provision of this Contract.
- 19.2. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAW.** Contractor shall comply with all applicable law. Contractor shall obtain all necessary permits and approvals and give all stipulations, certifications, and representations that may be required for it to perform this Contract.
- 19.3. **NONDISCRIMINATION.**
- (a) **Nondiscrimination Requirement.** During the term of this Contract, Contractor, including any subcontractor, shall not discriminate on the bases enumerated at RCW 49.60.530(3). In addition, Contractor, including any subcontractor, shall give written notice of this nondiscrimination requirement to any labor organizations with which Contractor, or subcontractor, has a collective bargaining or other agreement.
 - (b) **Obligation to Cooperate.** Contractor, including any subcontractor, shall cooperate and comply with any Washington state agency investigation regarding any allegation that Contractor, including any subcontractor, has engaged in discrimination prohibited by this Contract pursuant to RCW 49.60.530(3).

- (c) Default. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, Enterprise Services may suspend Contractor, including any subcontractor, upon notice of a failure to participate and cooperate with any state agency investigation into alleged discrimination prohibited by this Contract, pursuant to RCW 49.60.530(3). Any such suspension will remain in place until Enterprise Services receives notification that Contractor, including any subcontractor, is cooperating with the investigating state agency. In the event Contractor, or subcontractor, is determined to have engaged in discrimination identified at RCW 49.60.530(3), Enterprise Services may terminate this Contract in whole or in part, and Contractor, subcontractor, or both, may be referred for debarment as provided in RCW 39.26.200. Contractor or subcontractor may be given a reasonable time in which to cure this noncompliance, including implementing conditions consistent with any court-ordered injunctive relief or settlement agreement.
 - (d) Remedies for Breach. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in the event of Contract termination or suspension for engaging in discrimination, Contractor, subcontractor, or both, shall be liable for contract damages as authorized by law including, but not limited to, any cost difference between this Contract and the replacement or cover contract and all administrative costs directly related to the replacement contract, which damages are distinct from any penalties imposed under Chapter 49.60, RCW. Enterprise Services and/or Purchasers shall have the right to deduct from any monies due to Contractor or subcontractor, or that thereafter become due, an amount for damages Contractor or subcontractor will owe Enterprise Services and/or Purchasers for default under this provision.
- 19.4. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Contract constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and understandings between them. There are no representations or understandings of any kind not set forth herein.
- 19.5. AMENDMENT OR MODIFICATION. Except as set forth herein, this Contract may not be amended or modified except in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative of each party.
- 19.6. AUTHORITY. Each party to this Contract, and each individual signing on behalf of each party, hereby represents and warrants to the other that it has full power and authority to enter into this Contract and that its execution, delivery, and performance of this Contract has been fully authorized and approved, and that no further approvals or consents are required to bind such party.
- 19.7. NO AGENCY. The parties agree that no agency, partnership, or joint venture of any kind shall be or is intended to be created by or under this Contract. Neither party is an agent of the other party nor authorized to obligate it.
- 19.8. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The parties intend that an independent contractor relationship is created by this Contract. Contractor and its employees or agents performing under this Contract are not employees or agents of Enterprise Services. Contractor shall not have authorization, express or implied, to bind Enterprise Services to any agreement, liability, or understanding, except as expressly set forth herein. Contractor and its employees and agents are not entitled to unemployment insurance or worker's compensation benefits through Enterprise Services or the State of Washington and Enterprise Services and the State of

Washington will not pay for or otherwise provide such coverage for Contractor and its employees and agents.

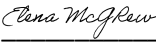
- 19.9. **ASSIGNMENT.** Contractor may not assign its rights under this Contract without Enterprise Services' prior written consent and Enterprise Services may consider any attempted assignment without such consent to be void; *Provided*, however, that, if Contractor (a) provides written notice to Enterprise Services within thirty (30) calendar days of such event and (b) timely executes Enterprise Services' Assignment, Assumption, and Consent Agreement, Contractor may assign its rights under this Contract in full to any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of Contractor that controls or is controlled by or under common control with Contractor, is merged or consolidated with Contractor, or purchases a majority or controlling interest in the ownership or assets of Contractor. Unless otherwise agreed, Contractor guarantees prompt performance of all obligations under this Contract notwithstanding any prior assignment of its rights.
- 19.10. **BINDING EFFECT; SUCCESSORS & ASSIGNS.** This Contract shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.
- 19.11. **ASSIGNMENT OF ANTITRUST RIGHTS REGARDING PURCHASED SERVICES.** Contractor irrevocably assigns to Enterprise Services, on behalf of the State of Washington, any claim for relief or cause of action which Contractor now has or which may accrue to Contractor in the future by reason of any violation of state or federal antitrust laws in connection with any Services provided in Washington for the purpose of carrying out Contractor's obligations under this Contract, including, at Enterprise Services' option, the right to control any such litigation on such claim for relief or cause of action.
- 19.12. **FEDERAL FUNDS.** To the extent that any Purchaser uses federal funds to purchase Services pursuant to this Contract, such Purchaser shall specify, with its Purchase Order, any applicable requirement or certification that must be satisfied by Contractor at the time the Purchase Order is placed.
- 19.13. **FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING.** Contractor certifies that, under the requirements of Lobbying Disclosure Act, 2 U.S.C., Section 1601 et seq., no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the Contractor, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- 19.14. **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Contract is held to be invalid or unenforceable, such provision shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of this Contract, and to this end the provisions of this Contract are declared to be severable. If such invalidity becomes known or apparent to the parties, the parties agree to negotiate promptly in good faith in an attempt to amend such provision as nearly as possible to be consistent with the intent of this Contract.
- 19.15. **WAIVER.** Failure of either party to insist upon the strict performance of any of the terms and conditions hereof, or failure to exercise any rights or remedies provided herein or by law, or to notify the other party in the event of breach, shall not release the other party of any of its obligations under this Contract, nor shall any purported oral modification or rescission of this Contract by either party operate as a waiver of any of the terms hereof. No waiver by either

party of any breach, default, or violation of any term, warranty, representation, contract, covenant, right, condition, or provision hereof shall constitute waiver of any subsequent breach, default, or violation of the same or other term, warranty, representation, contract, covenant, right, condition, or provision.

- 19.16. **SURVIVAL.** All representations, warranties, covenants, agreements, and indemnities set forth in or otherwise made pursuant to this Contract shall survive and remain in effect following the expiration or termination of this Contract, *Provided*, however, that nothing herein is intended to extend the survival beyond any applicable statute of limitations periods.
- 19.17. **GOVERNING LAW.** The validity, construction, performance, and enforcement of this Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington, without regard to any choice of law principles that would provide for the application of the laws of another jurisdiction.
- 19.18. **JURISDICTION & VENUE.** In the event that any action is brought to enforce any provision of this Contract, the parties agree to exclusive jurisdiction in Thurston County Superior Court for the State of Washington and agree that in any such action venue shall lie exclusively at Olympia, Washington.
- 19.19. **ATTORNEYS' FEES.** In the event of litigation or other action brought to enforce this Contract, each party shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.
- 19.20. **FAIR CONSTRUCTION & INTERPRETATION.** The provisions of this Contract shall be construed as a whole according to their common meaning and not strictly for or against any party and consistent with the provisions contained herein in order to achieve the objectives and purposes of this Contract. Each party hereto and its counsel has reviewed and revised this Contract and agrees that the normal rules of construction to the effect that any ambiguities are to be resolved against the drafting party shall not be construed in the interpretation of this Contract. Each term and provision of this Contract to be performed by either party shall be construed to be both a covenant and a condition.
- 19.21. **FURTHER ASSURANCES.** In addition to the actions specifically mentioned in this Contract, the parties shall each do whatever may reasonably be necessary to accomplish the transactions contemplated in this Contract including, without limitation, executing any additional documents reasonably necessary to effectuate the provisions and purposes of this Contract.
- 19.22. **EXHIBITS.** All exhibits referred to herein are deemed to be incorporated in this Contract in their entirety.
- 19.23. **CAPTIONS & HEADINGS.** The captions and headings in this Contract are for convenience only and are not intended to, and shall not be construed to, limit, enlarge, or affect the scope or intent of this Contract nor the meaning of any provisions hereof.
- 19.24. **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES.** An electronic signature or electronic record of this Contract or any other ancillary agreement shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original executed copy of this Contract or such other ancillary agreement for all purposes.
- 19.25. **COUNTERPARTS.** This Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which counterparts together shall constitute the same instrument which may be sufficiently evidenced by one counterpart. Execution of this Contract at different times and places by the parties shall not affect the validity thereof so long as all the parties hereto execute a counterpart of this Contract.

EXECUTED as of the date and year first above written.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Department of Enterprise Services

By: 
Elena McGrew
Its: Statewide Enterprise Procurement
Manager

ASCEND CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC.
a Washington Limited Liability Company

By: 
[DeWayne Moats \(Mar 20, 2024 21:55 PDT\)](#)
DeWayne Moats
Its: President

IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 14822

CONTRACT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE

This exhibit includes two sections: IT Project Management and IT Quality Assurance

IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT SCOPE AND REQUIREMENTS

Scope

IT Project Manager Services (PM) involves monitoring and management of technology projects using industry standard project and process management techniques. IT Project Managers must have excellent knowledge of standardized project management principles based on the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK). This includes creating project estimates, reporting, resource, and capacity planning. IT Project Managers will recommend and guide the integration of new technology, depending on scope of the project, and communicates key project information (i.e. issues, risks, changes, accomplishments) to stakeholders. IT Project Managers must demonstrate ongoing industry best practices, techniques, and standards.

Requirements

Recruiting, vetting and retention processes and obligations

Contractor Commitment:

Please note that for this submission our company does not anticipate using any subcontractors and would plan to add to staff with employees as needed.

The following describes the normal processes in order to answer the questions to the fullest extent possible:

1) Our company has a multi-step multi-mode process for recruiting, vetting, and retaining any resource that we want to put forward as a candidate for an RFP response. This first begins by sourcing with known professionals that are already part of the team or known professionals from partner organizations. If a resource from either of these is identified the resource is interviewed internally to establish if they are the right fit for the engagement as well as the client, an updated check is done for certifications, client feedback from the prior engagement is reviewed, followed by a background check and if required a 10 point drug screen. If we have to go beyond our known resources pool we work with several recruiting agencies to identify top talent. After the initial screen by the recruiter interviews are conducted and in addition to the steps above their references are checked as part of the background check. Finally, in the unlikely event that this is a replacement for a named resource on a contract the client is provided the option to identify the top candidate before they are placed on the account. For chosen candidates competitive compensation packages and other retention incentives and contract terms are used to ensure they stay through the duration of the engagement.

2) To date our company has only had to replace one 1099 contractor who was not available for a contract extension after the initial engagement ended, because without an earlier request from the client he had committed to something else. As such we don't experience turnover so long as we have advance notification from the client that they would like to extend. Our average length of employment and / or subcontractor agreement is two (2) years. Subcontractor agreements are usually updated annually to accommodate for changes to work to be performed and rate adjustments. Similarly, master service contracts with other companies are renewed every three (3) years with potential for pricing adjustments to be made annually.

Customer Relation Management (CRM) processes and issue resolution obligations

Contractor Commitment:

Our company typically provides weekly status reports and conducts regularly scheduled weekly or bi-weekly 1:1 sessions between the Project Manager and the appropriate client contact. The project manager then meets with the assigned engagement manager weekly to keep them apprised of current status and upcoming plans. Additionally meetings between the engagement manager and the client sponsor or other executive contact are conducted at least monthly, or more frequently at the client's discretion. Should any negative event or feedback occur in the meantime, meetings at this level would be held as immediately as fits with the client's calendar to resolve any issues. Lessons learned are conducted at the end of projects and retrospectives are conducted iteratively with the customer teams at predefined points during the project to elicit additional customer feedback. An account executive from our company is usually also assigned for the agency to provide other channels for communication regarding the engagement or to coordinate conversations concerning multiple engagements or future needs. The needs and satisfaction of our clients is paramount, and a testament to our service excellence model is the fact that our company currently gets the majority of its business from repeat customers or by referrals from existing or past customers and other firms that were also on those prior engagements.

Performance and certification obligations:

- Evaluations must be performed annually with your employees and/or subcontractors to ensure quality performance and educational standards
- Relevant certifications must be verified annually to ensure they are current
- Training must be required for employees and/or subcontractors to stay relevant with changes in industry technology
- Certifications that met requirement in B-1 exhibit, must be made available at customer's request

Journey Consultant Minimum Qualifications

- 5 years of experience managing IT projects, or 4 years with an associate degree or 3 years with a bachelor's degree
 - Degree must be in Information Systems, Business Administration, Project Management, or a related field
- Proven abilities in:
 - Utilization of industry standard project management software and tools
 - Tracking project performance
 - Creating and maintaining detailed documentation, project plans and schedules
 - Performing quality control throughout project development

Senior Consultant Minimum Qualifications

- 7 years of experience managing IT projects, 6 years with an associate degree, 5 years with a bachelor's degree or 4 years with a master's degree
 - Degree must be in Information Systems, Business Administration, Project Management, or a related field
- Proven abilities in:
 - Providing relevant ideas and perspectives on process or practice improvements
 - Tracking project performance
 - Creating and maintaining detailed documentation, project plans and schedules
 - Performing quality control on a project throughout development
 - Utilization of industry software and tools
 - Managing projects over \$75,000

Expert Consultant Minimum Qualifications

- 10 years of experience managing IT projects, 9 years with an associate degree, 8 years with a bachelor's degree or 7 years with a master's degree
 - Degree must be in Information Systems, Business Administration, Project Management, or a related field
- Proven abilities in:
 - Tracking project performance to analyze completion goals
 - Creating and maintaining detailed documentation, project plans and schedules
 - Performing quality control on a project throughout development
 - Utilization of industry software and tools
 - Managing projects over \$150,000

PRICES FOR IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PRICES FOR SERVICES
Ascend Consulting Services

Category	Maximum Rate Per Hour
Project Management	
	Regular Business Hours*
Journey	\$150 per hour
Senior	\$175 per hour
Expert	\$200 per hour
	After Business Hours
Journey	\$160 per hour
Senior	\$185 per hour
Expert	\$210 per hour

* Regular Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm PST

Ascend Consulting Services has indicated they are only available to provide **remote** PM and/or QA services. If any onsite work is accepted, the contractor is required to notify the Department of Enterprise Services and update their Certificate of Insurance.

Quotes issued under this contract must detail the hourly rates and total number of hours comprising the quote. Quote total may not exceed vendor's contracted hourly rate multiplied by the number of hours quoted.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. **INSURANCE OBLIGATION.** During the Term of this Contract, Contractor shall possess and maintain in full force and effect, at Contractor's sole expense, the following insurance coverages:
 - a. **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE.** Commercial general liability insurance (and, if necessary, commercial umbrella liability insurance) covering bodily injury, property damage, products/completed operations, personal injury, and advertising injury liability on an 'occurrence form' that shall be no less comprehensive and no more restrictive than the coverage provided by Insurance Services Office (ISO) under the most recent version of form CG 00 01 in the amount of not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$4,000,000 general aggregate. This coverage shall include blanket contractual liability coverage. This coverage shall include a cross-liability clause or separation of insured condition.
 - b. **WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE.** Contractor shall comply with applicable Workers' Compensation or Industrial Accident insurance providing benefits as required by law.
 - c. **EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY (STOP GAP) INSURANCE.** Employers' liability insurance (and, if necessary, commercial umbrella liability insurance) with limits not less than \$1,000,000 each accident for bodily injury by accident, \$1,000,000 each employee for bodily injury by disease, and \$1,000,000 bodily injury by disease policy limit.
 - d. **COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE** (only required if conducting work on Purchaser's premises). 'Symbol 1' commercial automobile liability coverage (and, if necessary, commercial umbrella liability insurance) including coverage for all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles. The combined single limit per accident shall not be less than \$1,000,000.
 - e. **CYBER RISK LIABILITY INSURANCE (ONLY IF REQUESTED BY PURCHASER).** Cyber risk insurance, on a claims made form. The policy shall include coverage for liability as a result of a data security breach or violation of consumer data protection laws arising out of Services provided under this Master Contract and resulting Purchase Orders - Limits are \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate. The insurance coverage limits set forth herein are the minimum. Contractor's insurance coverage shall be no less than the minimum amounts specified. Coverage in the amounts of these minimum limits, however, shall not be construed to relieve Contractor from liability in excess of such limits.
 - f. **TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY (ERRORS & OMISSIONS) (ONLY IF REQUESTED BY PURCHASER).** Technology professional liability insurance coverage. Coverage shall be sufficiently broad to respond to the duties and obligations as undertaken by Contractor in this Statewide Contract and shall include, but not be limited to, claims involving infringement of intellectual property, including, but not limited to, infringement of copyright, trademark, trade dress, invasion of privacy violations, information theft, damage to or destruction of electronic information, release of private information, alteration of electronic information, extortion, and

network security. The policy shall provide coverage for breach response costs as well as regulatory fines and penalties as well as credit monitoring expenses with limits sufficient to respond to these obligations. Combined single limit per claim shall not be less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$4,000,000 general aggregate.

The insurance coverage limits set forth herein are the minimum. Contractor's insurance coverage shall be no less than the minimum amounts specified. Coverage in the amounts of these minimum limits, however, shall not be construed to relieve Contractor from liability in excess of such limits. Contractor waives all rights against the State of Washington for the recovery of damages to the extent such damages are covered by any insurance required herein.

2. **COMMERCIAL UMBRELLA LIABILITY INSURANCE.** Commercial umbrella liability insurance coverage in the sum of \$3,000,000 shall be provided and shall apply over all liability policies, without exception, including but not limited to Commercial General Liability, Commercial Automobile Liability, Employers Liability, and Professional Liability.
3. **INSURANCE CARRIER RATING.** Coverages provided by Contractor must be underwritten by an insurance company deemed acceptable to the State of Washington's Office of Risk Management. Insurance coverage shall be provided by companies authorized to do business within the State of Washington and rated A- Class VII or better in the most recently published edition of Best's Insurance Rating. Enterprise Services reserves the right to reject all or any insurance carrier(s) with an unacceptable financial rating.
4. **ADDITIONAL INSURED.** Commercial General Liability and Commercial Automobile Liability shall include the State of Washington and all authorized Purchasers (and their agents, officers, and employees) as Additional Insureds evidenced by copy of the Additional Insured Endorsement attached to the Certificate of Insurance on such insurance policies.
5. **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE.** All policies and certificates of insurance shall include the Contract number stated on the cover of this Contract. All certificates of Insurance and any related insurance documents shall be delivered to Enterprise Services via email, and shall be sent to the email address set forth below or to such other address or email address as Enterprise Services may specify in writing:

Email: desitps@des.wa.gov Note: For Email notice, the Email Subject line must state:
Contract Insurance Certificate – Statewide Contract No. 14822 – IT Project Management Services
6. **PRIMARY COVERAGE.** Contractor's insurance shall apply as primary and shall not seek contribution from any insurance or self-insurance maintained by, or provided to, the additional insureds listed above including, at a minimum, the State of Washington and/or any Purchaser. All insurance or self-insurance of the State of Washington and/or Purchasers shall be excess of any insurance provided by Contractor or subcontractors.
7. **SUBCONTRACTORS.** Contractor shall include all subcontractors as insureds under all required insurance policies. Alternatively, prior to utilizing any subcontractor, Contractor shall cause any such subcontractor to provide insurance that complies with all applicable requirements of the insurance set forth herein and shall furnish separate Certificates of Insurance and endorsements

for each subcontractor. Each subcontractor must comply fully with all insurance requirements stated herein. Failure of any subcontractor to comply with insurance requirements does not limit Contractor's liability or responsibility.

8. **WAIVER OF SUBROGATION.** Contractor waives all rights of subrogation against the State of Washington and any Purchaser for the recovery of damages to the extent such damages are or would be covered by the insurance specified herein.
9. **NOTICE OF CHANGE OR CANCELLATION.** There shall be no cancellation, material change, exhaustion of aggregate limits, or intent not to renew insurance coverage, either in whole or in part, without at least sixty (60) calendar days prior written Legal Notice by Contractor to Enterprise Services. Failure to provide such notice, as required, shall constitute default by Contractor. Any such written notice shall include the Contract number stated on the cover of this Contract.
10. **EXTENDED REPORTING PERIOD.** If any required insurance coverage is on a claims-made basis (rather than occurrence), Contractor shall maintain such coverage for a period of no less than three (3) years following expiration or termination of the Contract.

* * * END OF INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS * * *

14822 Project Management Contract Ascend Consulting Services

Final Audit Report

2024-04-02

Created:	2024-03-19
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